

DESCRIPTION
OF THE
FREEDOM BOX,
Voted by the
CITY OF LONDON,
TO THE
Hon. AUGUSTUS KEPPEL,
Admiral of the Blue.
To which is prefixed
A Succinct Account of His PUBLIC SERVICES.



L O N D O N :

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10^s 6^d. to L 2. 2



TO
The Right Honourable
THE LORD MAYOR,
ALDERMEN,
and
COMMON COUNCIL
of the
City of London.

This production is with the greatest
respect inscribed by

Little Malborough Street,
November 1779.

Their most Obedient
and much Obliged
Humble Servant
W^m Charron.



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L I S T

O F

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ADVERTISEMENT.

THE Artift thinks himself highly honoured by, and is much obliged to the Committee who appointed him to execute the Box prefented with the Freedom of the City of London to Admiral Keppel, and hopes he has not failed in the execution of it, having exerted his utmoft abilities. Should his endeavours prove fuccefsful, by meriting their approbation, he flatters himself that the performance will intitle him to fome fmall fhare of applaufe, which has been his higheft ambition to deferve.

THE elegant defigns of that eminent Sculptor Mr. Bacon, compofe the fides of the Box; and the vignette in the title page is by the fame ingenious Mafter; it was at firft intended for the top, but the Artift's was adopted; yet his having great merit, we prefent it to the Public as an additional ornament to the work. The prints are engraved the fame fize as the Box.

THE defigns being emblematical, it was thought neceffary to give an explanation of them, the better

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to

to comprehend the precise meaning of the Artist; and it is presumed the designs themselves are sufficiently curious to apologize for their appearing in print: at the same time they serve to shew the taste and judgment of the Committee, in their choice of subjects on this public occasion.

THE action of Admiral Keppel with the French Fleet, on the 27th of July, forming but a small part of his Public Services, a Succinct Account of them is prefixed to this Description of the Freedom Box, for reasons that will appear obvious, and it is hoped will not be altogether unpleasing to the Reader.

A
SUCCINCT ACCOUNT
OF THE
PUBLIC SERVICES
OF
ADMIRAL KEPPEL.

THE Public being already so fully informed of all the particulars relating to the trial, and honourable acquittal of Admiral Keppel, it is no way necessary to take up the Reader's time with a repetition of those circumstances; however, it may not be improper to give a short view of his conduct, so far as relates to his Public Services.

THE Honourable Augustus Keppel is the second son of William Anne, second Earl of Albemarle, by Lady Anne, daughter of Charles Lennox, first Duke of Richmond, born in 1725; his grand-father was Arnold Joost Van Keppel, a younger son of Bernard Van Pallant, Lord Van Keppel, descended from an ancient noble family of the province of Guelderland, by Agnes Charlotte Elizabeth, the daughter of Jacob Van Wassenæer, Lord of Opdam; this Ancestor of our Admiral, was, on account of his military and other talents,
dear

dear to King William, who was an intelligent judge of military men, and created him first Earl of Albemarle.

THIS account of the pedigree and descent of the Admiral, is not here set forth with any view of claiming respect to his character from the dignity and birth of his ancestors; we rest his title to the veneration and applause of his fellow-citizens on a much nobler foundation, that of personal merit.

FROM the rank and example of his illustrious family, he derived every advantage that could tend to the improvement of his own natural endowments.

AT a very early age he entered into the Navy, under Commodore, afterwards Lord Anson; and with that experienced commander he sailed round the world. In this expedition, notwithstanding his youth, he had an opportunity of signaling himself on a very perilous occasion, particularly mentioned by the historian of that interesting expedition; who informs us that, at the taking of Païta, on November the 16th, 1744, this juvenile Hero was exposed to the most imminent danger, the side of the peak of his jockey cap being shot off close to his temple by a ball, which, however, did him no other injury.

IN April 1745, Mr. Keppel returned with Lord Anson in the *Centurion*, from the expedition round the world: and we find, towards the latter end of the same year, he was appointed a Captain in the Royal Navy, though not twenty years of age.

IN 1746, he commanded the *Maidstone*, and was very active in taking and destroying many French frigates and privateers; his activity and zeal procured him, in 1751, the command of a squadron in the Mediterranean; and when on that service, the Commodore was ordered to sail into the harbour of Algiers, and to demand restitution of the Dey for the many depredations committed on the British subjects by the Algerines, which he easily obtained.

IN 1752, he likewise concluded treaties with the States of Tunis and Tripoly; and, after having been above three years on the Mediterranean station, returned home before the close of the same year. In 1755, Commodore Keppel was sent to protect the trade of Virginia; the next year, he was active in the Channel in taking many prizes from the French.

WHEN the expedition against Goree, on the coast of Africa, was resolved upon, that great, wise, and active minister, Mr.

B

Pitt,

Pitt, made choice of Commodore Keppel for this important conquest. With five ships and two bomb-ketches, he arrived there on December the 24th, and immediately began the attack, and soon obliged the governor to surrender at discretion. After having firmly established the dominion of Great Britain on the coast of Senegal, and Cape Verd in Africa, he sailed for England, where he arrived in March, 1759.

ON the ever-memorable 20th of November of the same year, being Captain of the Torbay, under the immortal Hawke, he was ordered by him, with ten ships of the line, to cut off the retreat of the enemy; but from motives of delicacy he expressed an unwillingness to take the lead of senior officers. Admiral Hawke replied, I know you will do your duty, therefore go: on this occasion he fell in with the *Thesée*, which he sunk at the second broadside.

His courage, activity, and zeal in the service of his country, could not escape the notice of his Sovereign, who honoured him with the command of the Plymouth division of marines. After this the Commodore had another opportunity of exerting those talents, and that bravery which had merited so just a reward.

WHEN

WHEN it was found expedient to attempt the conquest of Belle-Isle, which, on account of its strength and situation, is the key of the whole Gallic western coast, and might afterwards facilitate other attempts upon that part of the enemy's shore. A squadron of nine line of battle ships, some frigates, fireships, and bombs was put under his command, together with one hundred transports, having on board 9,000 troops, with a proportionate train of artillery, under the command of Major-General Hodgson.

THE bravery and conduct of the French governor, and the indefatigable zeal of the garrison, together with the strength of the fortifications, the scarcity of provisions, and the dangerous situations of the coast, were obstacles that retarded the success of the enterprize; but such perseverance, judgment, and valour were opposed to them by the Commodore, and the commander of the troops, that the governor on the 7th of June, to save the rest of his valiant garrison, was forced to capitulate.

UPON the junction of the Spaniards with the French, in 1762, the British Minister sent Admiral Pocock against the Havannah. The three Keppels were destined to a share of the laurels: the eldest brother, Lord of Albemarle, had the command

command of the land forces: and the landing of the troops was effected, without loss, under cover of that division of the fleet which Commodore Keppel directed. The third brother, being then Major-General, commanded the attack of the Moro Castle, the reduction of which, on the 30th of July, as well as that of the Havannah, on August the 13th, crowned the whole enterprise with success.

IMMEDIATELY after the surrender of the Havannah, he was sent on a cruise on the western station; where he had the good fortune to take four French frigates, with eighteen sail of merchantmen under their convoy. These, and all his former services, his Sovereign thought proper to reward by creating him Rear-Admiral of the Blue. Under this promotion, his cruises were attended with the same success, for he took several rich Spanish ships at the latter end of 1762, and in January and February of the ensuing year; which gave our gallant Admiral opportunities of acquiring an opulent fortune.

It now fell to the part of Admiral Keppel to serve his country in a more peaceable line; and he returned to the situation of a British Senator, in which he had before served, being elected member of parliament for Windsor in 1761, in

the

the room of his brother, who was called up to the House of Lords in 1754, on the demise of his father.

IN 1765, under the Marquis of Rockingham's administration, he was appointed one of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, and continued in that office till 1766. But his Majesty, out of regard for his great and public services, and with a view more to attach him to his royal person, appointed him one of the Grooms of his Bedchamber.

THE same borough of Windsor returned him their member in the two following parliaments; in which quality of a British Senator, he always shewed a noble and manly independence, joined to uncommon moderation.

IN 1778, the open assistance given by France to our revolted Colonies of America, and the hostile preparations carried on by that nation, contrary to the faith of treaties, against Great Britain, determined Administration to send a fleet of observation to watch the motions of the enemy.

ADMIRAL KEPPEL, from his known abilities, was appointed to this important command. Having sailed from St. Helens with twenty ships of the line, he fell in with the Pallas and

C

Licorne

Licorne frigates, which, upon their refusing to come under his stern, were taken. The intelligence he received from papers found on board these ships, was sufficient to shew him that the fleet under his command was inadequate to the accomplishments of the service he was upon.

THE French had thirty-two sail of the line in Brest harbour; he therefore prudently returned to Portsmouth, the 27th of June. Having obtained a reinforcement, he sailed again on July the 9th, and was joined at Plymouth, and off the Lizard, by other ships, which completed the number of thirty sail of line of battle ships under his command.

ON the 23d of the same month, he came in sight of the French fleet; and finding them backward to come to a decisive action, he resolved to give chase, and on the 27th the engagement began, in which the French met with so warm a reception, that they stood off, unwilling to hazard the event of a close and general contest.

THE disabled ships prevented an immediate pursuit, and the Vice-Admiral of the Blue neglecting to obey the signal for renewing the attack, the enemy availed themselves of the opportunity, and favoured by night, took shelter in their own port. The Admiral then returned to Plymouth to refit.

AFTER

AFTER a short time he failed again, and continued at sea for some time; the French always carefully avoiding the station he kept. Some time after his return he found, to his great surprise, that the Vice-Admiral of the Blue, whose disobedience was overlooked, for the sake of preserving unanimity in the service, charged him with misconduct, and neglect of duty on the 27th and 28th of July.

THE exhibited charges were hastily accepted, and a trial immediately ordered to be held at Portsmouth, on board the *Britannia*, on January 7th, 1779; which (by an act of parliament for that purpose) was removed to the house of the Governor of his Majesty's garrison at Portsmouth.

THE Court-martial under Sir Thomas Pye, Admiral of the White, as President, having proceeded on the trial, after a tedious examination of a great number of witnesses, our Admiral, on the 30th of January, made his defence: and on the 11th of February the Court pronounced sentence; by which he was honourably acquitted, and the charge declared to be malicious and ill founded.

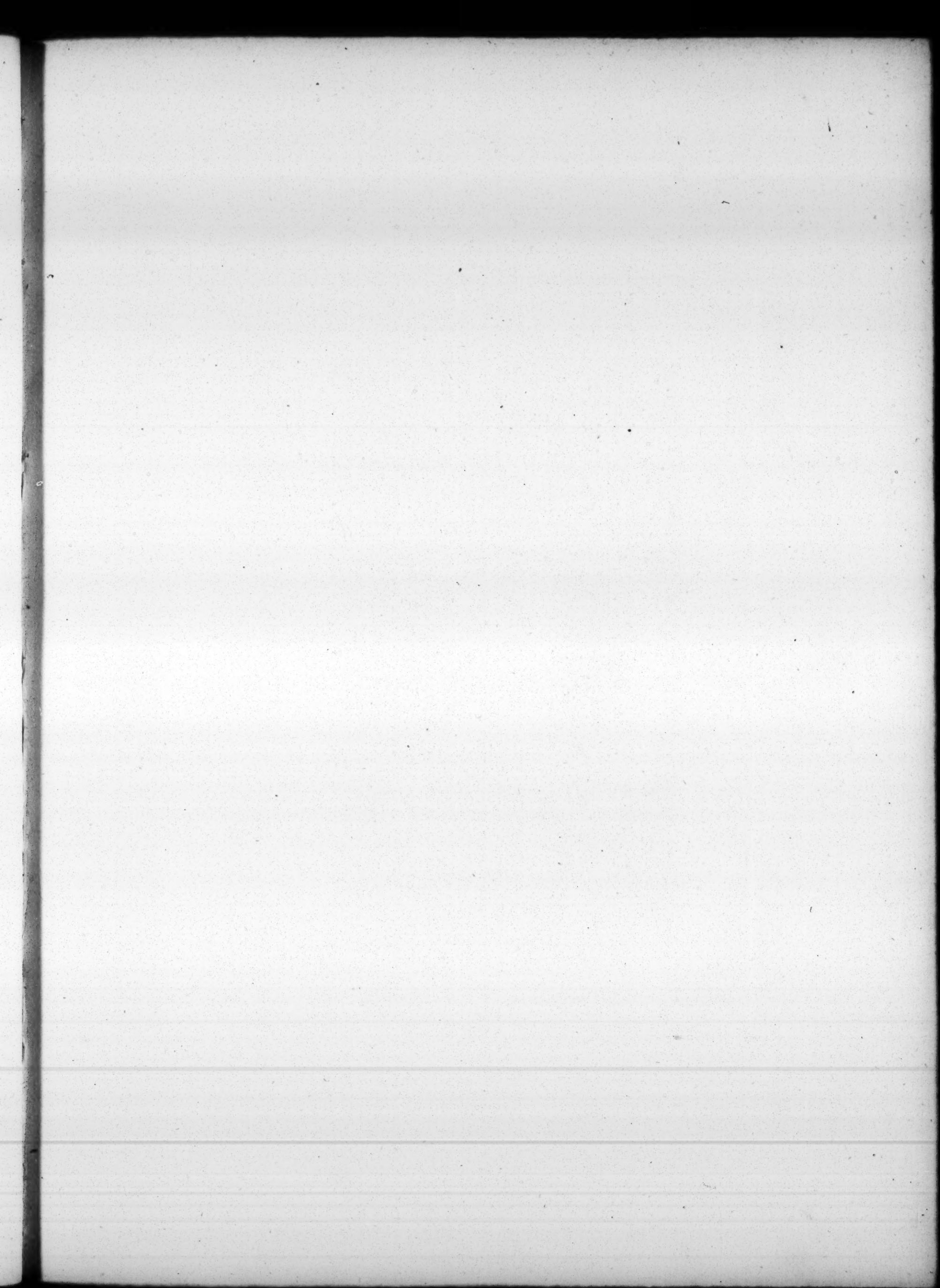
THE general satisfaction expressed by the Public on the honourable acquittal of the Admiral, is fresh in the memory of every one, and is the strongest confirmation that the opinions
of

of the people at large perfectly coincided with the sentence and declaration of the respectable characters who presided at the trial, as well as those who were witnesses on the occasion. The circumstantial and full evidence of so many gallant and experienced officers, who, from their station and merit, were best qualified to judge of the accused Admiral's conduct, are testimonies that must for ever remain the strongest refutation of every insidious suggestion of malice and envy.

HE had the honour of receiving the congratulations of both Houses of Parliament on the triumph of his innocence, and thanks for his prudent conduct in that expedition, upon which the charges against him had been so maliciously founded.

THE City of London has been always conspicuous in taking the lead, and rewarding the merits of those who have distinguished themselves in the service of their country. Actuated by such liberal sentiments, the Court of Aldermen and Common Council, by their unanimous resolution, on the 12th of February, 1779, ordered the thanks of their court to be given to Admiral Keppel; it was likewise resolved to present him with the Freedom of the City in a Box of Heart of Oak, richly ornamented with gold, and various emblematical representations, as a testimony of their approbation of his Public Services.

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Virtue when wounded, acquires
Conscious of nothing which shou



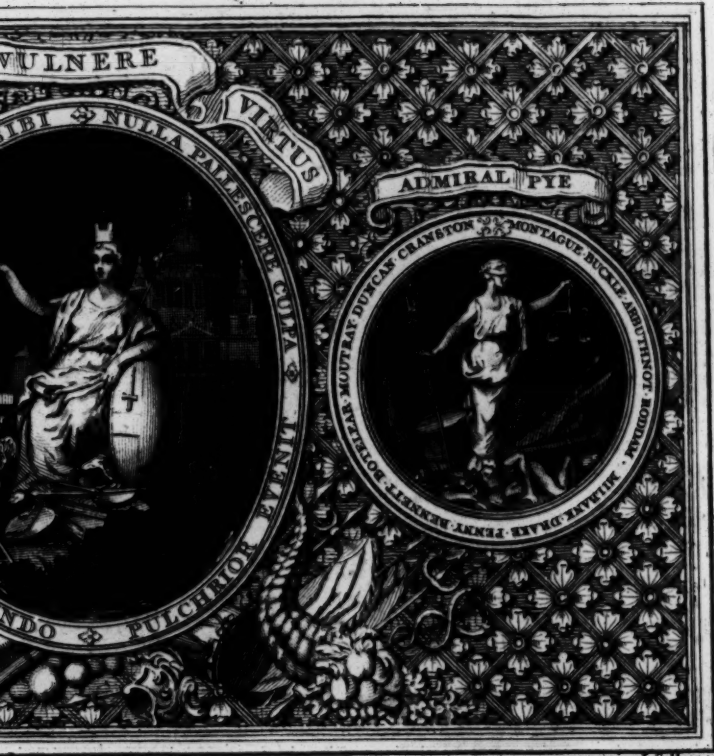
W. Charron exc.

Plunge him in ocean, he

London: Published as the

wounded, acquires fresh vigour.
nothing which should pale his cheek.

TOP.



re him in ocean, he will rise to day.

ublished as the Act directs. 11 Dec. 1779.

THE

Virtue when wounded, acquiesces
Conscious of nothing which

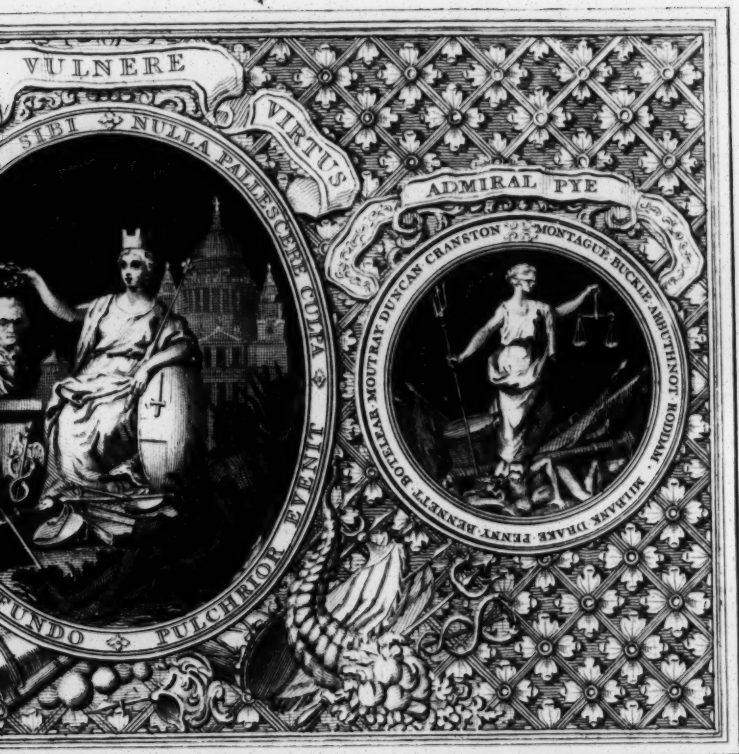


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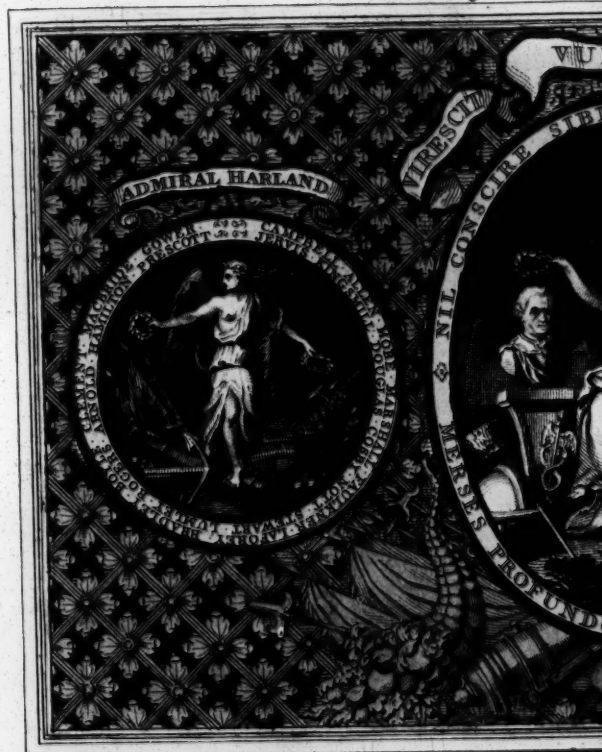


Thunge him in ocean, he will rise to day

Published as the Act directs. 11 Dec^r 1779.

THE

Virtue when wounded
Conscious of nothing



W. Charron exc.

Plunge him

London: Public

Virtue when wounded, acquires fresh vigour.
 conscious of nothing which should pale his cheek.

TOP.



Plunge him in ocean, he will rise to day.

J. Collyer sc.

London: Publish'd as the Act directs. 11 Dec^r 1779.

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Conscious of nothing which sh



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Plunge him in ocean

London: Published as

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J. Collyer sc

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Published as the Act directs. 11 Decr 1779.



A
D E S C R I P T I O N

OF THE

DESIGNS ON THE BOX.

T H E T O P.

THE whole Box is made of Heart of Oak, covered with rich gold mosaic work, through the openings of which the oak is seen; the Heart of Oak being an emblem of the British Navy, and her gallant Sons. On the oval, in the centre of the Box is, painted in enamel, a female figure seated, and crowned with the pinnacles of a city wall, leaning on a shield, bearing the arms of the City of London; she holds in her left hand a sceptre, and with her right is crowning the bust of Admiral Keppel. This figure, representing the City of London, has at her feet emblems of liberty, commerce, and riches, &c. acquired by the navigation of the River Thames, as shewn by a river-god on the fore ground, on whose right hand is an antique rudder, and on his left a water urn: the

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back

back ground has a view of St. Paul's. The upper part of the border of this oval has the following motto taken from Horace, in gold letters, on a blue transparent enamelled ground :

“ Nil conscire sibi, nulla *pallefcere* culpa.”

Conscious of nothing which should pale his cheek.

Conscious to no self-reproach, and having no fault to turn pale with *.

On the lower part of the border is this motto :

“ Merces profundo, pulchrior evenit.”

Plunge him in ocean, he will rise to day.

Dearly earned rewards are the sweetest.

meaning, that reward the Admiral did not obtain without being brought to the very brink of losing it, together with his life and honour.

OVER these mottos, in a ribbon, is a third, expressive of the dangerous effects of the charges exhibited against the Admiral.

* The Editor has given a free as well as a literal translation of the mottos, some of his friends preferring one and some the other.

“ Virefcit

“ Virescit vulnere Virtus.”

Virtue derives fresh vigour from a wound.

Virtue when wounded acquires fresh vigour.

THE medallion, on the right side of the oval, represents *Naval Justice*, holding a trident in her right hand, and in her left a balance, treading on Envy, and surrounded by martial trophies, expressive of that justice which governed the sentence of the Court-martial. The name of *Admiral Pye*, the President, is on the top; as also *Admirals Montague, Buckle, Arbuthnot, and Roddam*; *Captains Milbank, Drake, Penny, Bennet, Botelear, Moutray, Duncan, and Cranston*, who composed the Court-martial, are engraved in letters of gold on the blue enamelled border surrounding the medallion.

THE medallion on the left hand represents *Naval Victory* distributing crowns, surrounded by naval trophies. The name of *Sir Robert Harland* is on the top; and in the circle of the medallion the names of the other respectable witnesses, engraved in letters of gold, viz. *Campbell, Allen, More, Marshall, Faulkner, Laforey, Bradley, Boyle, Clement, Macbride, Gower, Jervis, Kingsmill, Douglas, Cosby, Nott, Stewart, Lumley, Rogers, Arnold, Hamilton, and Prescott*.

THE rim, or shutting part, of the Box, is ornamented alternately with *scollop shells* and *anchors*; the scollop shell being part of the coat of arms of the Keppel family.

THE FRONT.

ON the left medallion, *Truth* is represented sitting with a cube in her hand, denoting eternal stability, having a radiant star on her forehead, shewing its brilliant and illuminating effects on the human mind: she is naked, because Truth requires no dress, or ornaments.

SCRUTINY is dressed in an antique style, holding a sieve under her left arm, as a proper emblem of separating truth from falsehood; with her right hand she lifts up a mantle, which discovers Truth; and has the following motto from Virgil;

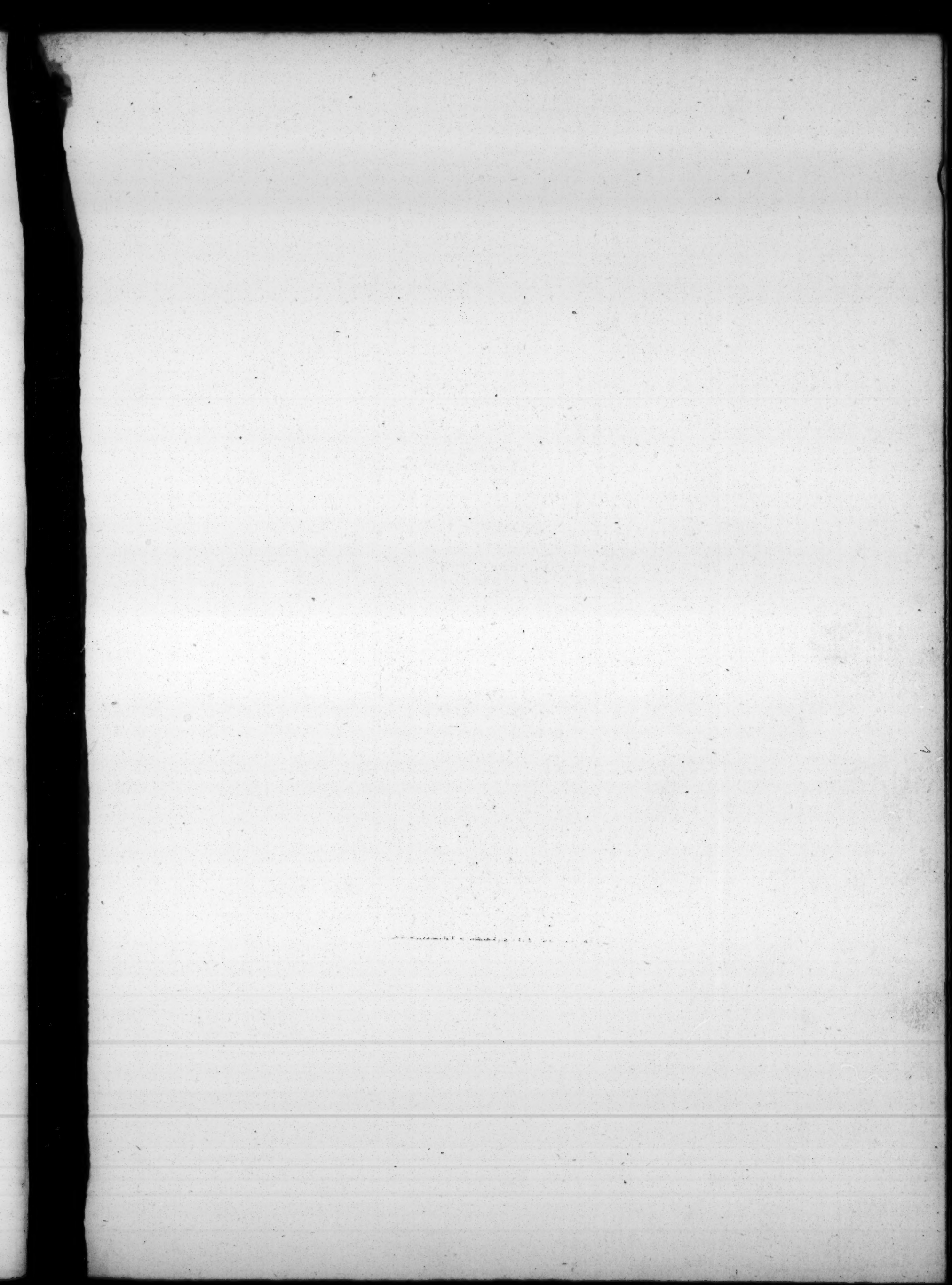
“Animum veris implet.”

She fills the mind with nothing but the truth.

Scrutiny fills the mind with truth, rejecting all prejudices and falsehoods,

THE right-hand medallion represents *Military Virtue*, armed with a spear and sword. The star on his breast shews the radiance and conspicuous eminence of great military actions:

one



THE F



W. Charron del.

She fills the mind with nothing but the truth.

London: Published as the Act

THE FRONT.



uth.

Thine honour, name, and praise shall ever live.

J. Collyer sc.

published as the Act directs. n Dec^r 1779 -

THE F



W. Charron del.

She fills the mind with nothing but the truth.

London Published as the

THE FRONT.



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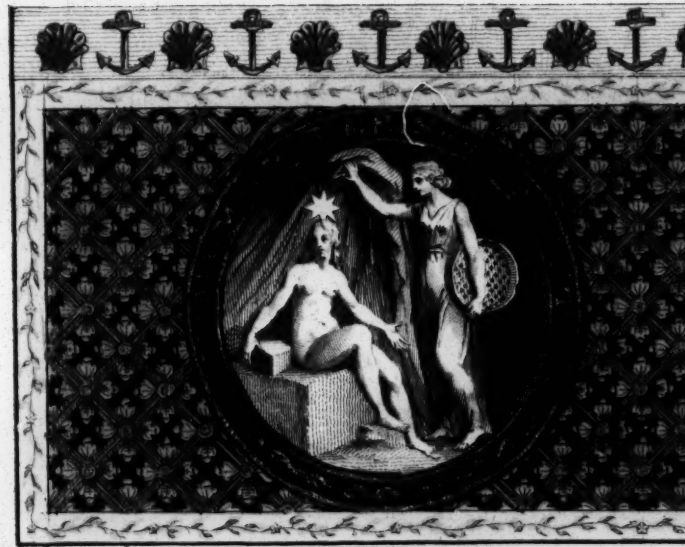
THE FRONT.



the truth . Thine honour, name, and praise shall ever live .

J. Collyer sc.

THE FRO



W. Charron del.

She fills the mind with nothing but the truth.

London: Publish'd as the Act dir.

E FRONT.



Thine honour, name, and praise shall ever live .

J. Collyer sc.

As the Act directs in Dec^r 1779 -

THE END



H. HARRIS del.

O friendly night . | O for the day, to light me on to fame .

London: Published as the Act directs,

ENDS.



Thy valour heap'd our wharfs with wealth.

THE END



H. Charron del.

O friendly night . | O for the day, to light me on to fame .

London. Published as the Act directs

ENDS.



as the Act directs. in Dec^r 1779 -

THE END



O friendly night . | O for the day, to light me on to fame .

London: Publish'd as the Act directs.

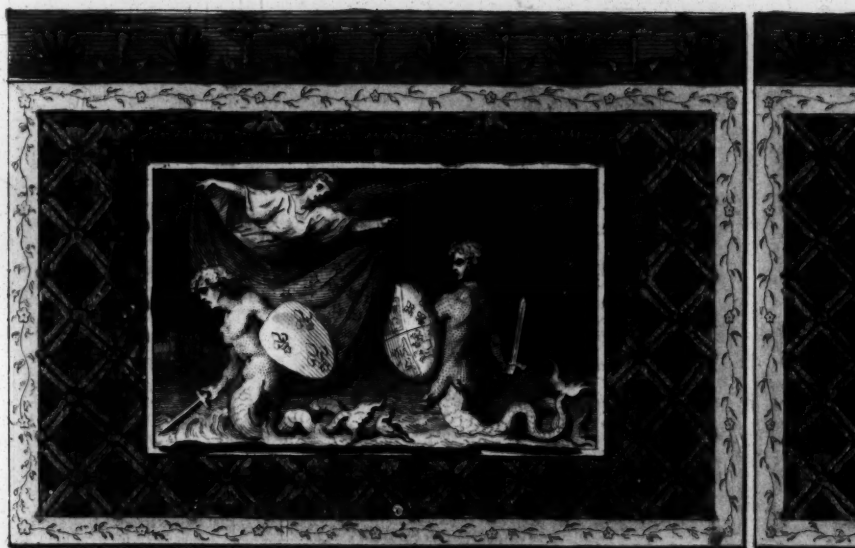
ENDS.



Thy valour heap'd our wharfs with wealth.

A. Collier sc.

THE ENDS



H. Charron del.

O friendly night. | O for the day, to light me on to fame.

London: Published as the Act directs, 1719.

ENDS.



Thy valour heap'd our wharfs with wealth.

J. Collyer sc.

Ad directs, 12 Oct. 1779 -



one leg is placed upon a globe which it fixes, to shew, that virtue even prescribes laws to the fickleness of chance and fortune.

HONOUR here is represented in a more modern dress, with a collar of knighthood, putting the herald's cap of honour on the head of Virtue.

THE motto expresses the permanency of honours thus conferred on Virtue :

“Semper honos, nomenque TUUM, laudesque manebunt.”

Thine honour, name, and praise shall ever live.

Thine is the praise, the honour and the glory.

THE ENDS.

ON the right end of the Box, the Triton of Great Britain is represented in a warlike posture ; the shield with the British arms worn by the young Triton, points out the vigorous strength of the British naval force. The French Triton, with dishevelled hair, in a dejected attitude, flies before his conquerors, drops the point of his sword, and lowers even his defending buckler. Night, crowned with soporific poppies, spreads her sable mantle, strewed with numerous stars, between the combatants, under the cover of which the French Triton

E

escapes.

escapes. The British Triton wishes only for the return of day to finish his conquest, expressed by the motto :

“ Phosphore redde diem.”

Oh for the day to light me on to fame!

O morning star bring back the day!

The other part of the motto expresses the favourable deceit of the night, under which the French fleet evaded her total ruin;

“ Fraude noctis.”

Oh friendly night!

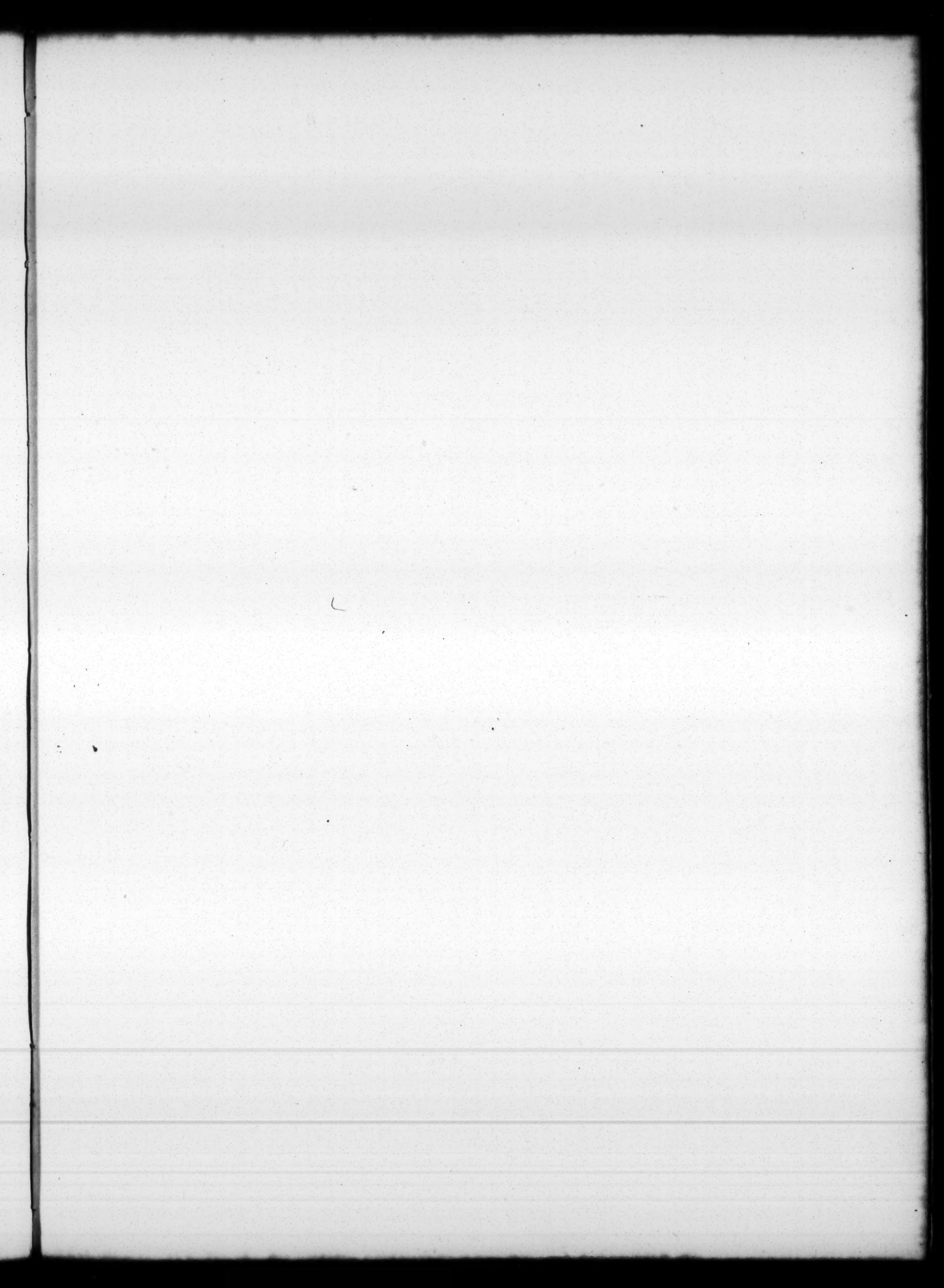
Under cover of night!

ON the left end of the Box, the British Triton, in a defying warlike posture, alludes to the prudent measure adopted and executed by the naval commanders, vigorously protecting the British commerce, whose wealth Mercury shews in his purse. A numerous fleet of merchant ships are seen at a distance entering into their destined ports: to which this motto alludes:

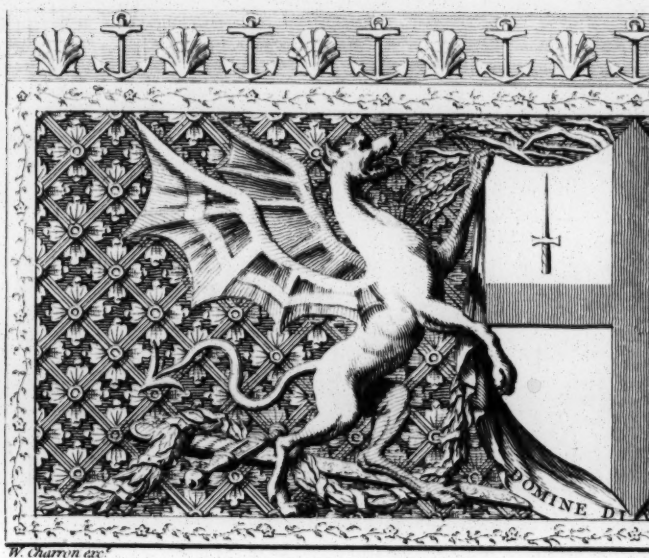
“ Immensæ ruperunt horrea messes.”

Thy valour heaped our wharfs with wealth.

Immense crops filled their storehouses; their granaries burst
with plenty, For

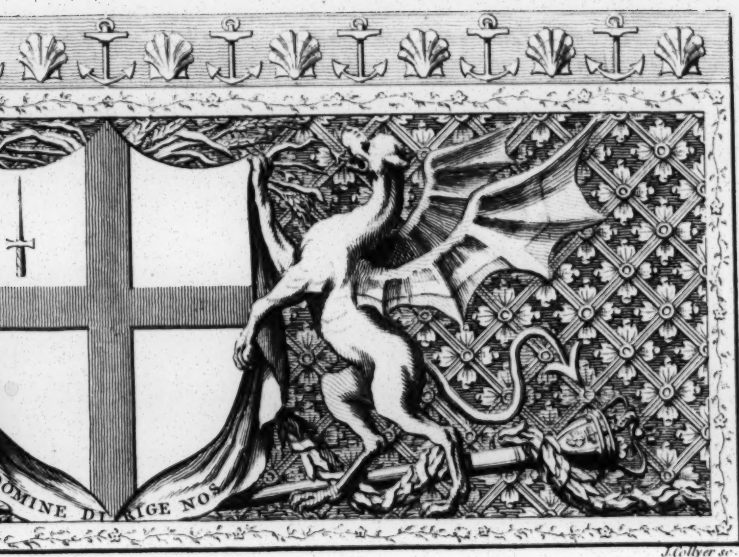


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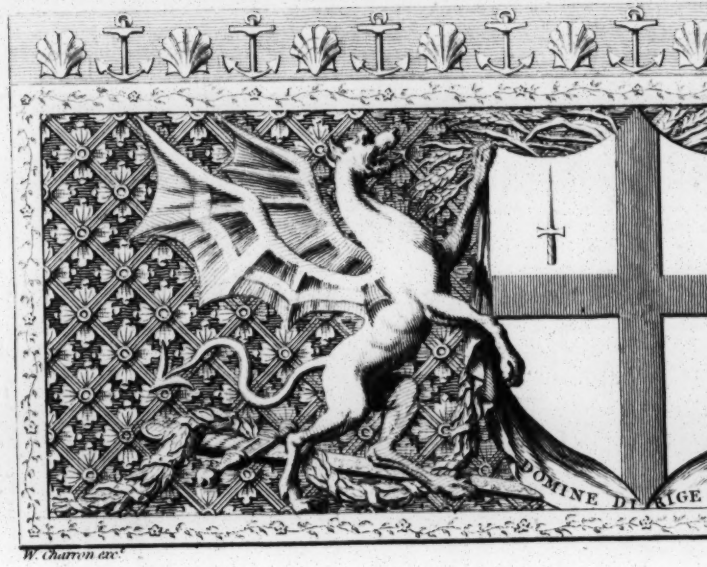
London: Published as the A

THE BACK.



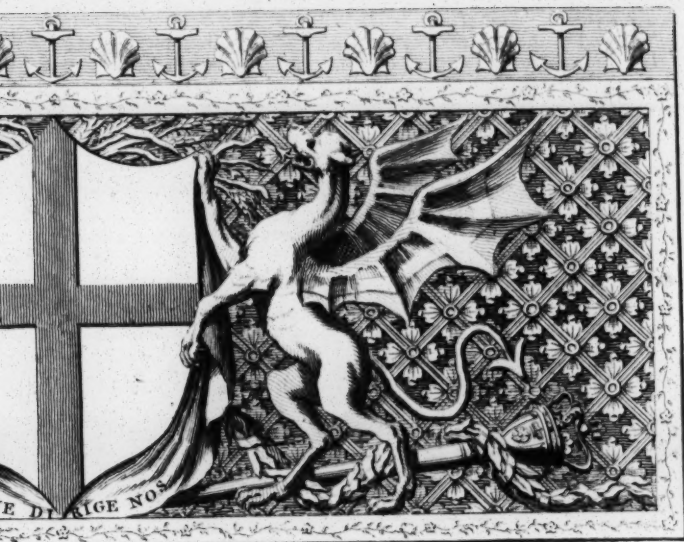
Published as the Act directs, 15 Oct. 1779.

THE BAC



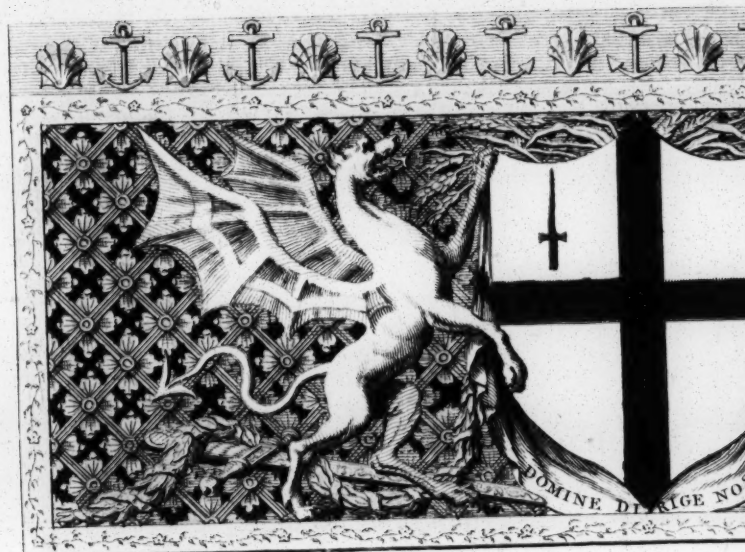
London: Published as the Act directs

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ed as the Act directs in Decr 1779

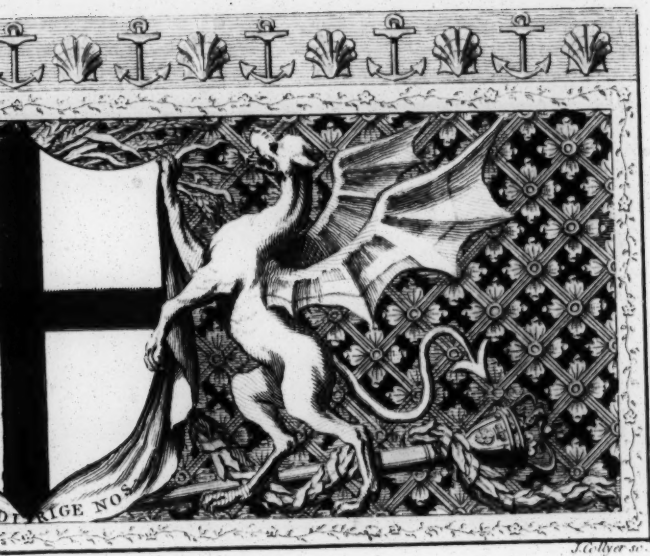
THE BACK



W. Charron del.

London: Published as the Act directs.

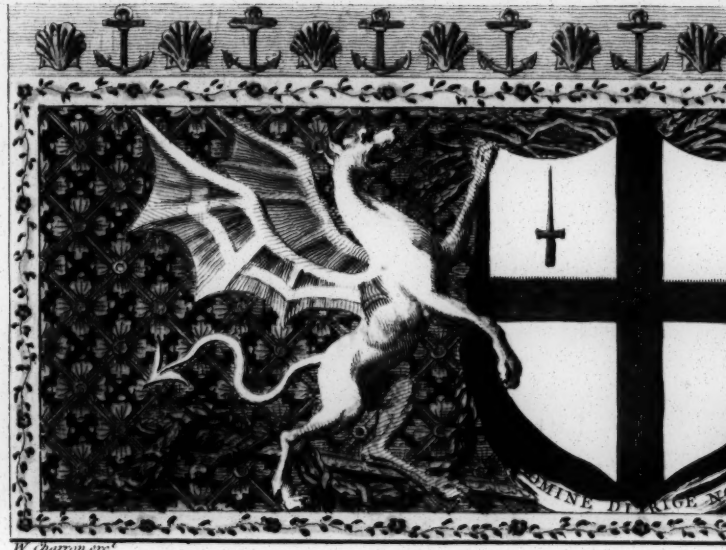
BACK.



the Act directs, 15 Oct^r 1779.

[Handwritten signature]

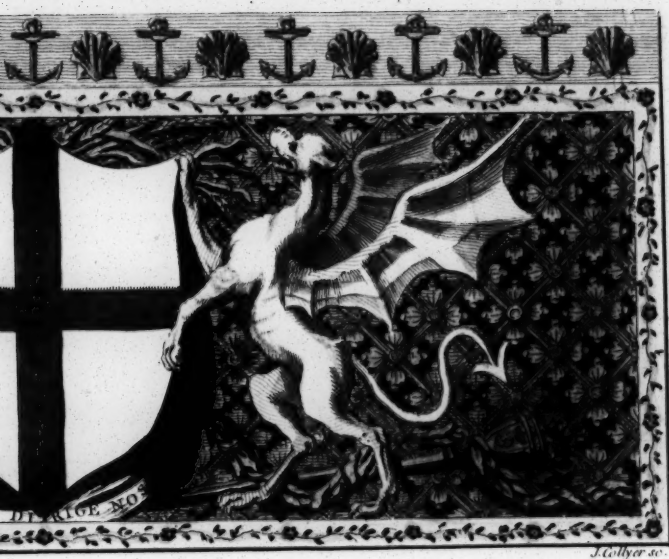
THE BAC



W. Channon del.

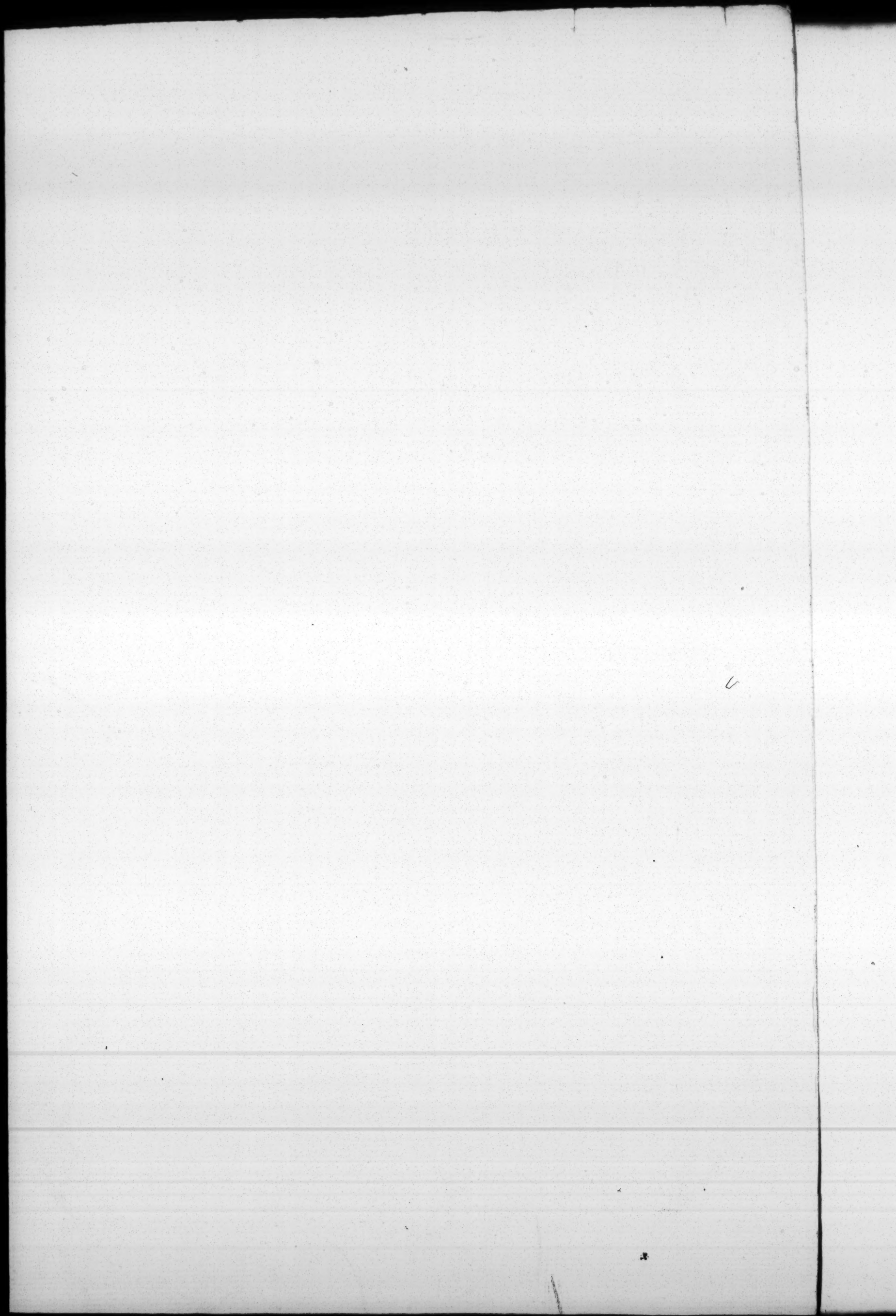
London: Published as the Act directs.

E BACK.



J. Collyer sc.

as the Act directs 15 Oct. 1779.



For thus the wealth of both the Indies filled the British store-houses.

THE BACK.

ON the back of the Box are the arms of the city of London, supporters and regalia: the gold plate lining the inside of the top contains the Resolution of the Common Council of the City of London *.

THE VIGNETTE.

ON the vignette is represented Admiral Keppel, attended by Neptune and Mars; on the right is a female figure resting on a shield, on which the City Arms are expressed, attended by Justice presenting to the Admiral the Freedom of the City of London.

* The medallions are all painted in enamel, on gold plates with gold borders and ribbons, on which the mottoes are all engraved in letters of gold, on a blue transparent enamelled ground. The gold chasc mosaic work, through which the oak is seen, serves as a ground to the whole Box.

*A Common Council holden in the Chamber of the Guildhall of the City of
London, on Friday the 12th of Feb. 1779.*

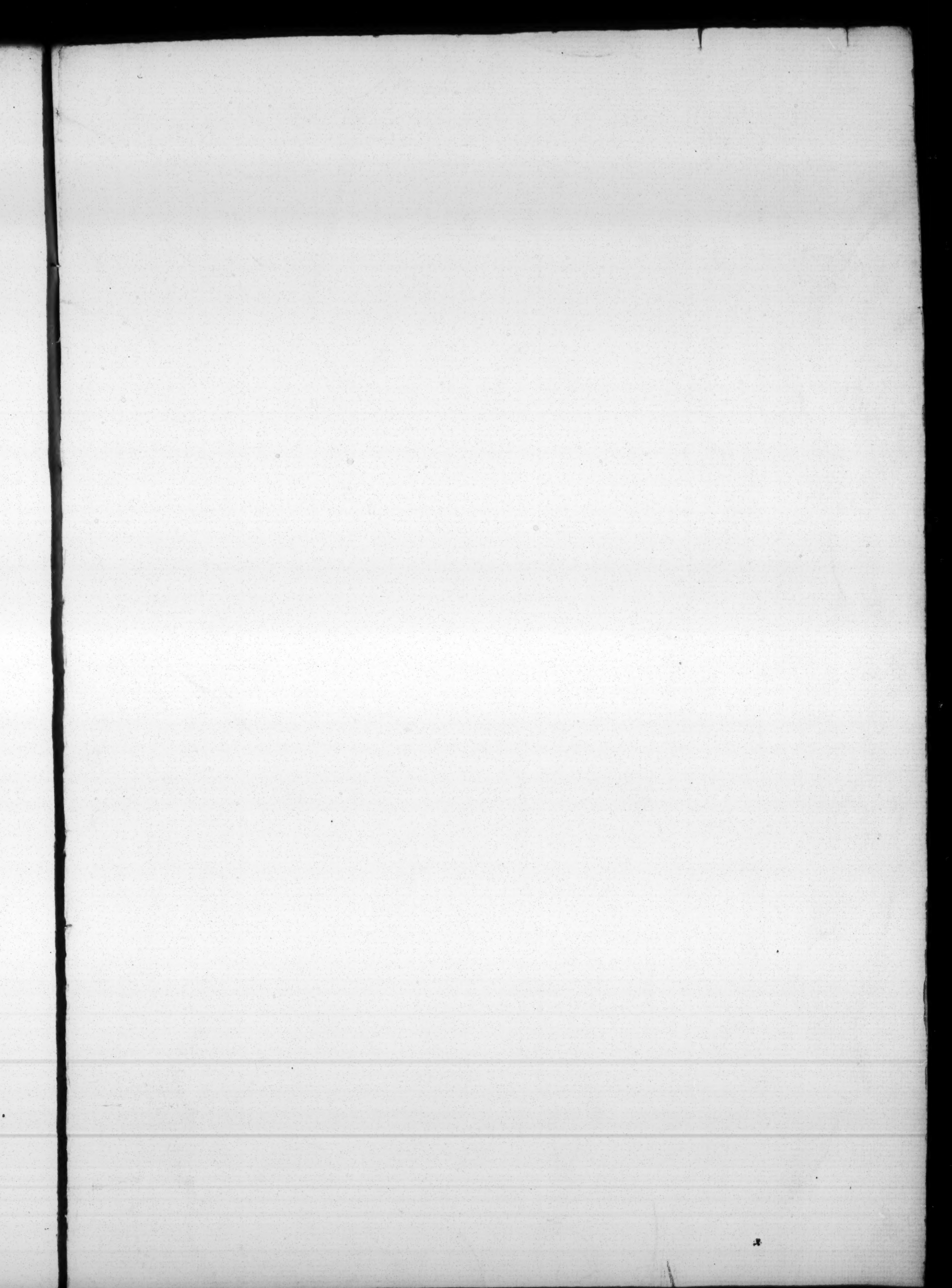
P L U M B E, MAYOR.

Resolved

UNANIMOUSLY, That the thanks of this Court be given to the honourable Augustus Keppel, Admiral of the Blue, for his long and faithful services to this country; for his ready acceptance, at the call of his Sovereign, of the important charge of Commander of the British fleet in the time of imminent danger; for the anxious attention that appears in every instance of his conduct to the safety of this country; for his judicious, able, and spirited behaviour on the twenty-seventh of July last, in his attack on the French Fleet, for his glorious and gallant efforts to renew the engagement in the afternoon of that day, efforts rendered unsuccessful through the want of obedience to his orders by the Vice-Admiral of the Blue; for the great protection given by him to our trade, to which entirely we are indebted for the safe arrival of the East and West-India fleets; for his animating conduct and example, happily followed by such signal exertion of spirit and intrepidity in the officers and seamen of the British fleet, as conveyed terror to our enemies, and obliged them to seek shelter in their own ports by an ignominious flight.

(Signed) R I X.

T H E E N D.



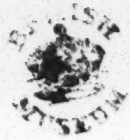
Resolved
A COMMON COUNCIL holden in the CHAMBER
on Friday the 12th day of February 1779

this Court be given to the Honourable Augustus L.
Services to this Country; for his ready acceptance
of Commander of the BRITISH FLEET in time of im-
in every instance of his Conduct to the Safety of
viour on the Twenty-seventh of July last, in his a-
gallant Efforts to renew the Engagement in the
thro the want of Obedience to his Orders by the
given by him to our Trade, to which entirely w-
West India Fleets; for his animating Conduct a-
of Spirit and Intrepidity in the Officers and Se-
Enemies, and obliged them to seek Shelter in the

Wm. D. D. D.
Wm. D. D. D.
the CHAMBER of the Guildhall of the CITY of LONDON,
May 1779

Resolved unanimously that the Thanks of
Augustus Keppel, Admiral of the Blue, for his long and faithful
acceptance at the call of his SOVEREIGN of the important charge
time of imminent Danger; for the anxious attention that appears
Safety of this Country; for his judicious able and spirited be-
haviour in his attack on the **FRENCH FLEET**; for his glorious and
valour in the Afternoon of that Day; Efforts rendered unsuccessful
by the Vice Admiral of the Blue; for the great protection
entirely we are indebted for the safe arrival of the East and
Conduct and Example happily followed by such Signal Exertion
of the British Fleet, as conveyed Terror to our
Enemies in their own Ports by an ignominious Flight.

Wm. D. D. D.
Wm. D. D. D.



TO the respectable names mentioned in the last paragraph (*page 17.*), should have been added the names of every witness called on Admiral Keppel's trial, both by his prosecutor and himself, as the substance of the whole evidence given (notwithstanding the invidious intentions of a very few), tended to the illustration of his character; in which light, we are called upon strongly to advert to the testimony of those officers of high honour, service, and experience, Sir *John Lockart Ross*, Sir *John Lindsay*, Captain *Edwards*, and Captain *Maitland*; and to the generous effusion of truth in that of Captain *Windsor*, and Lieutenant *Bertie*.

